

Mayor advocates 'controlled growth' for Halton Hills

Halton Hills Mayor Russ Miller would like to see Georgetown grow to about the size Guelph was 40 years ago and Acton increase in size to the equivalent Georgetown was approximately 20 years ago.

Advocating "controlled growth," Mayor Miller explained that Georgetown can grow from its present population of 18,000 to 40,000 and Acton can accommodate another 4,000 people more than its current 6,000 residents without Halton Hills losing its identity. The mayor describes Halton Hills as a bedroom community for larger centres such as Toronto, Hamilton and Burlington with a relatively small commercial and industrial base.

The only way Halton Hills could grow beyond these population projections, said Mayor Miller, is if water resources are piped in from Lake Ontario. "But I would never like to see this happen," said the mayor. Halton Hills residents receive their water supply either

from wells or streams.

The mayor made his comments in response to a Halton Regional report on population growth in the Region that goes before Halton Regional council today, (Wednesday).

According to the report, Halton Hill's population is expected to grow to 60,000 by the year 2011. As the mayor predicted, Georgetown and Acton's population will grow by 20,000 and 6,000 respectively while the rural population will remain at approximately 10,000 people, the report indicates.

The population predictions are based on the current land capacity and water and sewage servicing capabilities within the Georgetown and Acton urban areas, explained Andrew Colley, a senior planner with the town.

Highlighting the potential growth in Georgetown, Mr. Colley said there is currently 800 acres in the southern part of the community designated as residential. But

for this land to be actually developed, the economy must return to the state it was two or three years ago and ongoing Regional water studies must show there is sufficient water to accommodate any significant growth, he explained.

Several residential development applications have already been submitted to the town's planning department for this area, said Mr. Colley.

The expansion of the Georgetown Sewage Treatment plant completed earlier this spring and located south of Silver Creek, means the town is set to accommodate an increased growth in clean industry, said Mr. Colley. In the area surrounding the sewage treatment plant and heading towards Highway 401, there is currently 400 acres designated for industrial use, said Mr. Colley.

If Halton Hills is to reach its population potential industry will be necessary because with it comes an increase in workers who will want to reside in the area where they work, said Mr. Colley.

According to the Regional report, Halton's total population is expected to grow from 400,000 to between 456,000 and 537,000 by 2011.

Oakville is expected to experience the largest growth in population climbing from 100,936 to 198,000 by 2011. Burlington is ex-

pected to grow from 120,000 to 170,700 over the same time period while Milton's population will jump from 30,115 to 70,500, the report indicates.

Brent Kears, the Region's Executive Director for Business Development predicted the Georgetown south industrial area will take off but not for one or two years. The servicing for the area isn't quite in place, to enable industry to move in now, he explained.

Mr. Kears made his prediction in the context that although the number of industrial and commercial building permits issued during the first six months of 1990 is up 47 per cent over this time last

year in Halton as a whole, the percentage of industrial and commercial permits issued in Halton Hills during the first six months of 1990 has decreased.

Mr. Kears attributed the drop to a slowing economy and more importantly to a lack of the immediate availability of large tracts of industrial lands.

Halton Hills is not alone however in the fact that like the Region's three other municipalities it has experienced a drop in the number of residential building permits issued during the last six months compared to the same period last year, he said. Again, Mr. Kears attributed the drop to a slowing economy.

Council briefs

Quarry open house

Dufferin Aggregates, owner of the Dufferin Quarry, located in the southern part of Halton Hills, has invited Halton Hills council to attend a company-sponsored open house today (Wednesday) at the Quarry to tour the site and witness a blasting demonstration. Councillors were informed of the open house at Monday's council meeting.

The open house, which runs from 4 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and is primarily for the residents living in the area of the quarry, is meant to answer any questions the residents might have concerning well water and noise created by quarry blasting. Quarry manager Brian Harrington wrote in a letter addressed to council.

Square dance week

At the request of the Pine Valley Square Dance Club Halton Hills Council Monday proclaimed Sept. 10 to Sept. 16 "Square Dance Week" within Halton Hills. The club made the request in an attempt to attract new members, according to a letter signed by club secretaries Marie and Don Simons.

Norval mail

Halton Hills council directed its engineering staff to find out if the town has any say where community mail boxes will be located in Norval once the Norval Post Office closes later this fall.

Town Councillor, Joe Hewitt, told council area residents have expressed concern to him that if the mail boxes are located in an improper location drainage and snow build-up problems could result. Echoing the residents' concerns Mayor Russ Miller said, "I think we should have some say as to where (Canada Post), puts them."

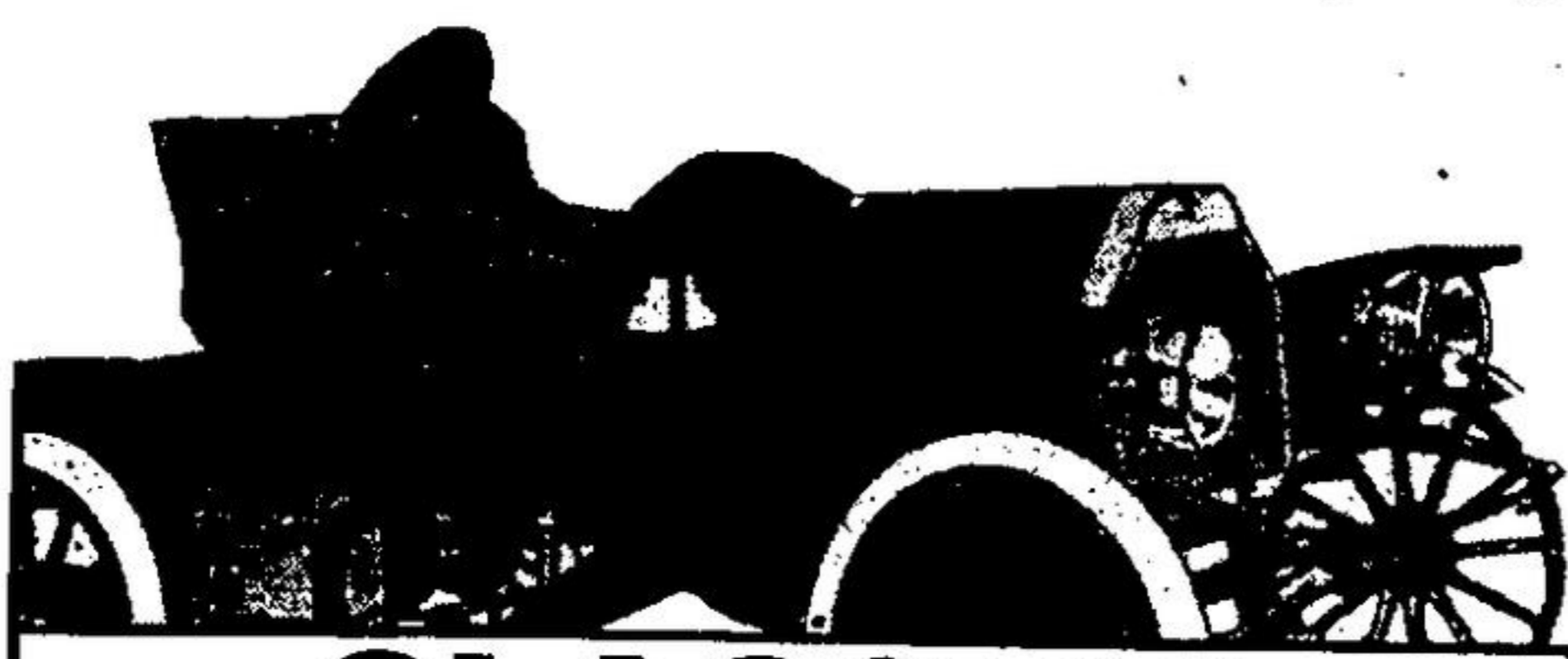
Fence an 'eyesore'

Calling the fence that is erected around the property at 327, 333 and 339 Maple Avenue an "eyesore," Halton Hills Councillor Ann Currie asked staff at Monday's council meeting if the town could force the owners of the property, Zupet and Associates, to dismantle the fence. But the town's Administrator-Clerk, Dan Costea, said there is nothing that can be done because the fence is on the owner's property and the town does not have a fencing bylaw.

Recorded council?

Halton Hills council directed staff to investigate the cost of tape recording all town council and

committee meetings during Monday night's council meeting. Councillor Pam Johnston introduced the motion arguing recordings of council and committee meetings would prevent anyone from being misquoted or any comments from being taken out of context.



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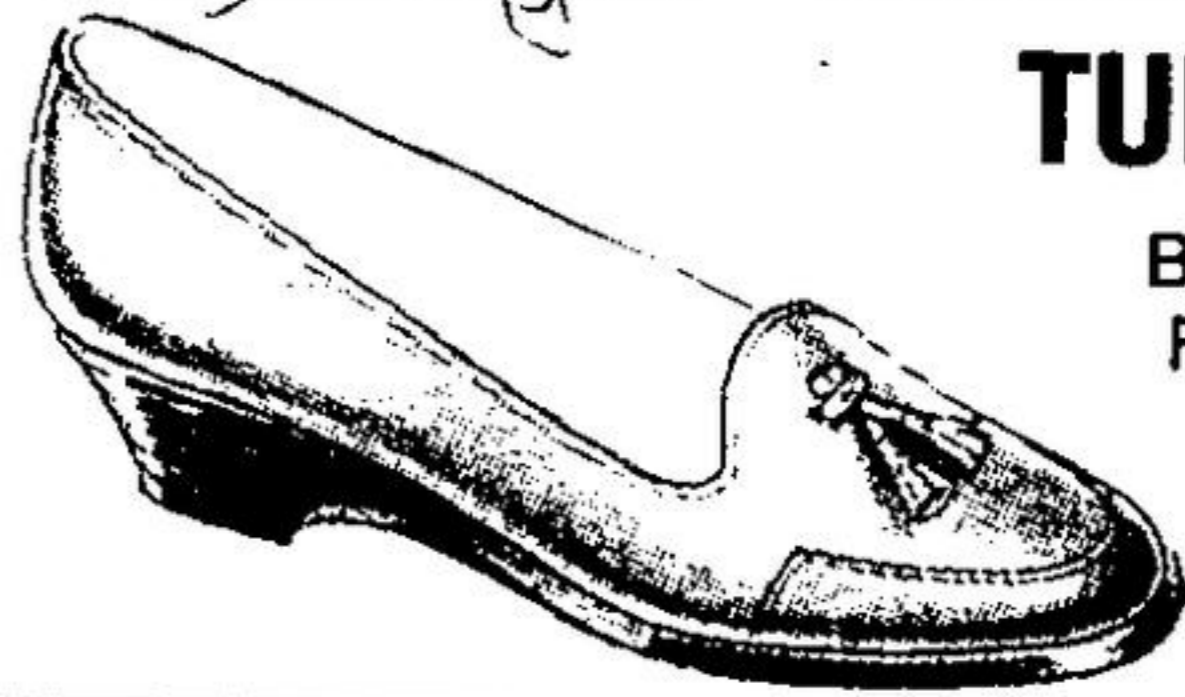
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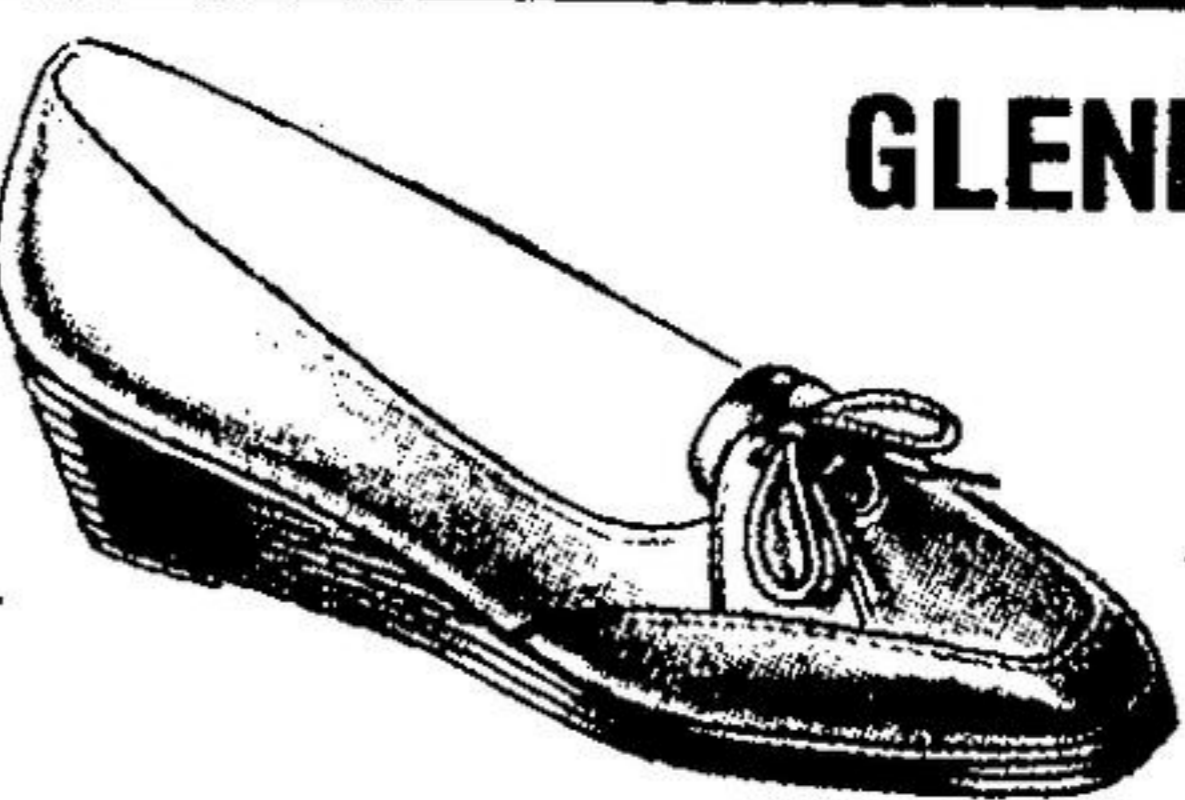
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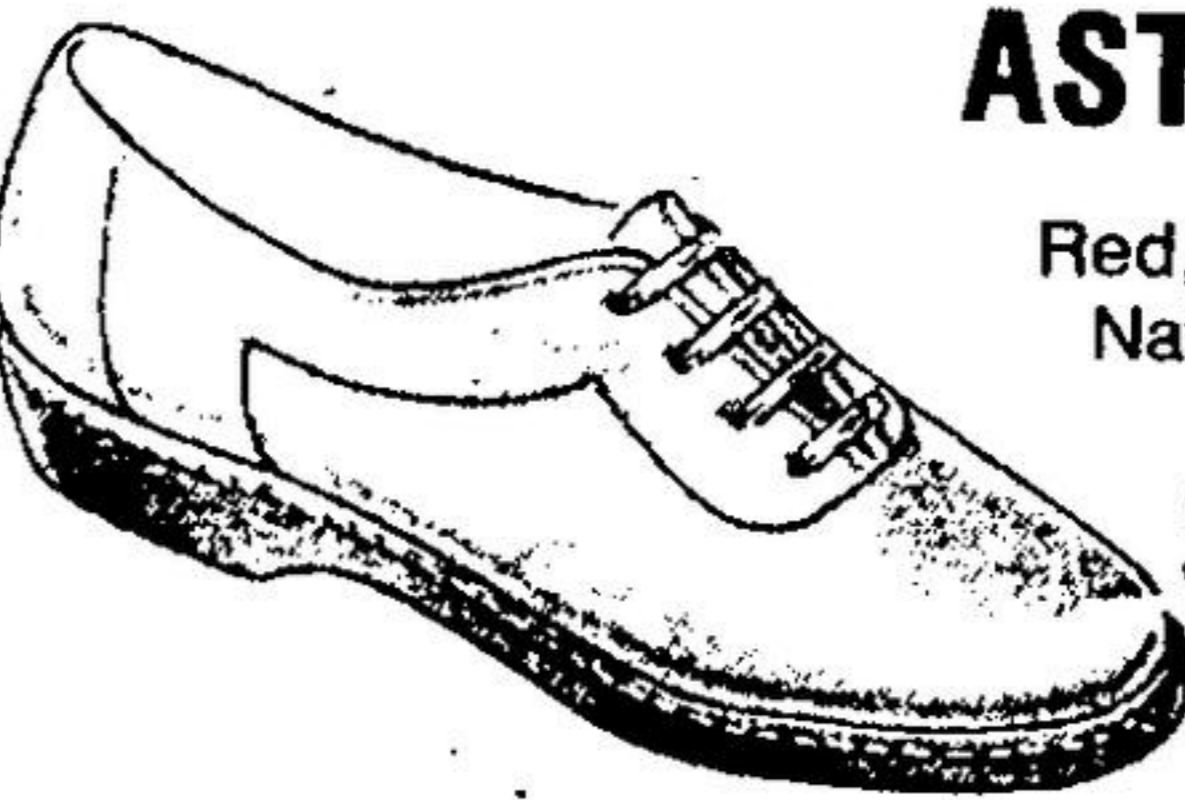
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